

SISTER M. FRANCIS CLARE PROCHASKA O.S.F. (Adelaide) 654

Born: December 16, 1898
Parents: Charles and Anna (Marovec) Prochaska
Postulancy: December 31, 1924
Novitiate: August 12, 1925
First Profession: August 12, 1927
Final Profession: August 12, 1931
Died: Sunday, May 14, 1989 at 9:15 p.m. at
Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL



Ministry:

1926 - 1927 St. Joseph, Joliet, IL, Grade 3
1927 - 1929 St. Mary, Des Plaines, IL, Grades 1 and 2
1929 - 1931 St. Procopius, Chicago, IL, Grades 2 and 5
1931 - 1932 Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL, Grades 3 & 4
Holy Family, Bayfield, WI, Grades 1, 2 & 3
1932 - 1938 St. Procopius, Chicago, IL, Comercial Class, Religion,
Algebra, Latin and English
1938 - 1939 St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, IL, Religion, Shorthand,
Typing, Secretarial Training
1939 - 1941 SS. Peter & Paul, Chicago, IL, Shorthand, Typing,
Bookkeeping
1941 - 1942 St. Francis Preparatory, Joliet, IL, Student
1942 - 1946 SS. Peter & Paul, Chicago, IL, Shorthand, Typing,
Bookkeeping and Office Work
1946 - 1947 St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, IL, Religion, Typing
Shorthand, Bookkeeping
1947 - 1957 St. Procop, Cleveland, OH, Superior & Principal,
Bookkeeping, Shorthand, Typing
1957 - 1958 St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Religion, History, Office
Practice and Bookkeeping
1958 - 1960 St. Procopius, Chicago, IL, Superior & Principal, Bookkeeping
1960 - 1965 St. Procop, Cleveland, OH, Superior & Principal, Bookkeeping
1965 - 1969 St. Procopius, Chicago, IL, Religion, Bookkeeping, Typing
1969 - 1984 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, Office Work
1984 - 1989 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Thursday, May 18, 1989 from 2 - 7 p.m. with a prayer service
at 4:15 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Thursday, May 18, 1989 at 7 p.m.

Burial: Friday, May 19, 1989, Resurrection Cemetery.

Survived by: Sisters: Alice Prochaska and Mrs. Ann Kutis
nieces and nephews

*For those who have been faithful, O Lord,
life is not ended, but merely changed.*

On Sunday, May 14, 1989, at 9:15 p.m., at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, our Sister Francis Clare Prochaska was born to life eternal. Even though she had been failing in health these past weeks, her death came quietly, and rather unexpectedly. Our Sisters, especially Sister Ephrem and Sister Austin, faithfully kept watch at her side, and prayed with her during these last days of her life. She was ninety-one years old.

Adelaide was born in Cleveland, Ohio on December 16, 1898 to her Austrian parents, Ann and Charles Prochaska. She was one of nine children. A younger sister also entered the Congregation, but in 1945, at age twenty-nine, died. Sister Eva's sudden death remained a great sorrow for our Sister Francis Clare. She is survived by two sisters, Ann and Alice and many nieces and nephews. She will be dearly missed by them.

Sister Francis Clare was twenty-six when she became a postulant. In her early days she was described as "self willed" and her novice director, Sister Otilia, mentioned she was never afraid to ask "why" when certain requests were made. We can only imagine how difficult these early days must have been for a woman who was older when she entered religious life. But she remained faithful to her religious commitment, and celebrated her Diamond Jubilee in 1987.

She ministered as a teacher. She taught elementary school for three years, and then began a career as a business teacher in secondary education that lasted close to fifty years. Our sisters who were her students recall how she was responsible for helping them develop their business skills. Many efficient secretaries had their initiation in her classroom. In the 1950's at St. Procop's in Cleveland, Ohio she was not only business teacher, but superior and principal.

She was always described as a "strict but fair" superior and principal. She ran a "tight ship". But those who knew her best saw the playful side of our Sister Francis Clare. She enjoyed a good laugh, good company, card games, and she delighted in watching her favorite baseball teams. These past years she became an avid Cub fan, and it was difficult to visit with her during a tense inning of play.

In 1969 she left the classroom and moved to the Sister's residence at SFA. She liked being in Joliet, and enjoyed visiting OLA and the Motherhouse. In 1984 she retired to OLA. She was always so appreciative of OLA, often saying, "we want for nothing here." She was a grateful woman.

A memory that seems to capture the heart of who Sister Francis Clare was goes back to her days at SFA. Those who knew her then remember a quiet, serious woman, fingers gnarled and pained with arthritis, faithfully and generously volunteering her days as typist, helping the SFA principal, Sister Jane Marie. She was a woman generous and motivated to live all the days of her life faithful to her covenant with her God and her Congregation.

We thank you Sister Francis Clare for your sixty-five years as our Sister. We will miss you. We rejoice with you that you no longer experience pain! We rejoice with you that you now experience the fullness of life for all eternity! And so we say, Amen! Alleluia!

